

Secret
No Foreign Dissem

7/19/74

Secret

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUN 11 1993

[REDACTED]

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• **2017: 74th Annual Meeting**

● 10

*** GET BACK TO WORK FASTER**

FILM

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF [REDACTED]
ITEMS MARKED & HAVE BEEN COORDINATED

[REDACTED]

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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MESSAGE REFERENCE

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LETTERS PUBLIC THIS WEEK IS UNCLEAR, BUT IT MAY HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF RIGHT-WING CIVILIAN ADVISERS WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO STIR UP TROUBLE BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. THE PARTY NOW IS AWAITING THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO A SECOND LETTER IT SENT BONILLA. IT ANTICIPATES REPLYING TO THIS RESPONSE WITH YET ANOTHER--THIS ONE TO BE SIGNED BY ALL FORMER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMEN--THAT WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE BROAD CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES. [REDACTED]

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//THE GOVERNMENT'S NEXT MOVE MAY TAKE THE FORM OF A LETTER FROM GENERAL CESAR BENAVIDES, ME NEW INTERIOR MINISTER. BONILLA WAS MOVED TO THE DEFENSE MINISTRY DURING THE CABINET SHAKE-UP EARLIER THIS MONTH. IN CONTRAST TO HIS PREDECESSOR, BENAVIDES IS KNOWN AS A STRICT DISCIPLINARIAN WHO HAS NO SPECIAL TIES TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. [REDACTED]

//RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE APPROACHED THE BRINK BEFORE, BUT UP TO NOW NEITHER SIDE HAS WANTED TO RISK AN OPEN BREAK. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THE DISPUTE APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN ON A MOMENTUM OF ITS OWN, AND BOTH SIDES

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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MESSAGE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

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MAY HAVE GONE TOO FAR TO BACK DOWN. MOVEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN
 DEMOCRATS INTO OPPOSITION WOULD SERIOUSLY ERODE THE MILITARY
 GOVERNMENT'S CLAIM TO MASS CIVILIAN SUPPORT AND WOULD HAVE A
 NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE JUNTA'S ALREADY POOR INTERNATIONAL
 IMAGE. 

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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